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Speech opening State Government Insurance Commission, Elizabeth office

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, OPENING STATE GOVERNMENT
INSURANCE COMMISSION. ELIZABETH OFFICE.

11.4.73

MR. MILNE, MR. GILLEN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR INVITING ME HERE TODAY.

THE OPENING OF THE COMMISSION'S ELIZABETH OFFICE MARKS A FURTHER BROADENING OF THE SERVICES OF A PUBLIC BODY WHICH - DESPITE SOME GLOOMY PREDICTIONS AT ITS BIRTH - HAS PROVED NOTABLY SUCCESSFUL.

SINCE IT OPENED ITS DOORS IN JANUARY LAST YEAR, THE COMMISSION HAS HAD A RECORD OF SUSTAINED GROWTH AND IS PROVING REAL VALUE FOR MONEY TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

IT HAS PROVIDED SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS TO ITS CUSTOMERS THROUGH ITS POLICY ON PREMIUM SETTING AND IS MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO THE STATE'S DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE INVESTMENT OF ITS FUNDS WITHIN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

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PROBABLY ITS MOST POPULAR ACTION SINCE IT STARTED HAS BEEN THE REDUCTION IN PREMIUMS FOR HOUSEOWNERS AND HOUSEHOLDERS INSURANCE POLICIES.

AGAIN, THIS STEP HAD ITS CRITICS. BUT THE RESULTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED SWING TO THE COMMISSION SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND IT IS NOW HANDLING SOME 450 ENQUIRIES A DAY.

I BELIEVE THE COMBINATION OF COMPETITIVE PREMIUMS, TOGETHER WITH GOVERNMENT-GUARANTEED INSURANCE WILL PROVE EQUALLY ATTRACTIVE TO CONSUMERS WHEN - AS HAS ALREADY BEEN FORESHADOWED - THE COMMISSION MOVES INTO THE LIFE ASSURANCE FIELD.

THE WAY IN WHICH THE COMMISSION IS FUNDING SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN JUST AS SUCCESSFUL. INVESTMENT WITH THE STATE OWNED BANKS IS NOW MORE THAN \$2½ MILLION. IN ADDITION THE COMMISSION IS ABOUT TO MAKE ITS FIRST INVESTMENT IN SEMI-GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AND SO MAKE A FURTHER CONTRIBUTION TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S GROWTH.

THE SAME COMBINATION OF CAUTION AND INITIATIVE WHICH HAS CHARACTERISED THE COMMISSION'S ADMINISTRATION OF PREMIUM SETTING AND INVESTMENT CAN BE SEEN IN THE WAY IT IS GETTING ITS SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE.

THIS IS THE SECOND MOVE AWAY FROM THE CITY. THE FIRST WAS THE OPENING OF THE WHYALLA OFFICE LAST SEPTEMBER. I'M SURE THAT PEOPLE IN THE GAWLER-ELIZABETH-SALISBURY AREAS WILL FIND THAT THIS OFFICE PROVIDES THEM WITH THE SAME VALUABLE AND CONVENIENT SERVICE GIVEN IN THE INDUSTRIAL NORTH.

NOR IS THE COMMISSION STOPPING HERE. THE STATE AND SAVINGS BANKS ALREADY ACT FOR IT THROUGH THEIR BRANCHES. THE COMMISSION IS NOW ACTIVELY LOOKING AT OTHER SITES IN BOTH THE PROVINCIAL CITIES AND GREATER METROPOLITAN AREA WHERE OTHER BRANCHES COULD BE OPENED.

THIS REFLECTS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF PROVIDING THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE DEGREE OF DECENTRALISED SERVICES.

I'M SURE THAT THIS OFFICE WILL PROVE A MOST WELCOME ADDITION TO THE RANGE OF SERVICES AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE IN THIS RAPIDLY EXPANDING AREA, AND I HAVE MUCH PLEASURE IN OFFICIALLY DECLARING IT OPEN.

THANK YOU.